

KELLY A. AYOTTE  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
BUDGET  
COMMERCE  
SMALL BUSINESS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3324

February 27, 2012

144 RUSSELL BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

1200 ELM STREET, SUITE 2  
MANCHESTER, NH 03101

144 MAIN STREET  
NASHUA, NH 03060

14 MANCHESTER SQUARE, SUITE 140  
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

19 PLEASANT STREET, SUITE 13B  
BERLIN, NH 03570

Mr. Richard Masters  
8 Chestnut Circle  
Mont Vernon, NH 30110

Dear Mr. Masters:

Thank you for contacting me, regarding the Mont Vernon warrant article seeking to rename "Jew Pond." I have reviewed your correspondence, media accounts of the history of the naming of this pond, and have viewed the YouTube video documentary by Katelyn Ann Dobbs which includes interviews with long time Mont Vernon residents. Those sources support the conclusion, as stated in a February 11, 2012 Nashua Telegraph article that the pond "got the name for a short-lived attempt in the late 1920s by some Jewish attorneys from Boston to turn The Grand into a resort for Jewish people, who were often blacklisted at other hotels." In my view pejorative place names which reflect prejudice based on religious beliefs are not consistent with New Hampshire values of community and mutual respect. Simply put, this name is inappropriate and should be changed.

In order to change this name, a request must be submitted to the United States Board on Geographic Names which will require a recommendation from the Town of Mont Vernon. If the voters of the Town of Mont Vernon determine that the name of this Pond should be changed, I would be happy to facilitate the Town working with the United States Geographic Survey and the United States Board on Geographic Names to bring about the formal adoption of the new name chosen by Mont Vernon.

Sincerely,



Kelly Ayotte  
U.S. Senator

*Thank you for pursuing this issue Richard. Please let me know when the town has approved the name change and I will pursue an expedited process from here.*